

9 January 1972

RNR 147
ALTMANN

LA PAZ, F BOLIVIA, FEB. 8, REUTER-GERMAN-BORN BUSINESSMAN ALTMANN HAS BEEN SUMMONED TO APPEAR BEFORE A TRIBUNAL CHECKING FRENCH ALLEGATIONS THAT HE IS REALLY THE WANTED NAZI WAR CRIMINAL KLAUS BARBIE, JUDICIAL SOURCES SAID HERE TODAY.

THE OFFICIAL SUMMONS WAS HANDED TO THE 56-YEAR-OLD ALTMANN WEDNESDAY AS HE WALKED ACROSS A SQUARE IN LA PAZ ACCCOMPANIED BY A BODYGUARD.

IT CALLS ON HIM TO APPEAR AT AN EARLY DATE, STILL TO BE FIXED, BEFORE THE LA PAZ DISTRICT SUPERIOR COURT -- THE TRIBUNAL APPOINTED BY THE BOLIVIAN JUSTICE MINISTRY TO CONSIDER A FRENCH GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR ALTMANN'S EXTRADITION.

THE ALTMANN-BARBIE CASE HAS BEEN HANGING FIRE SINCE LAST MAY, WHEN A BRAZILIAN NEWSPAPER QUOTED ALTMANN AS ADMITTING IN A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS THAT HE WAS BARBIE, BUT DENYING THAT HE TOOK PART IN WAR CRIMES IN FRANCE.

ALTMANN, WHO ARRIVED IN BOLIVIA ABOUT 20 YEARS AGO, IS NOW A BOLIVIAN CITIZEN AND RUNS AN IMPORT-EXPORT BUSINESS.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS PRESENTED THE BOLIVIAN JUDICIARY WITH DOCUMENTS IT CONTENDS PROVE BEYOND DOUBT ALTMANN IS REALLY BARBIE, KNOWN AS THE "BUTCHER OF LYONS" FROM THE TIME HE WAS GESTAPO CHIEF THERE, AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA FOR THE MURDER OF FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS INCLUDING MAQUIS HERO JEAN MOULIN.

REUTER JW/JK 1822

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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